

What is claimed is:

1 1. A device capable of communicating over a link to a system containing a
2 routine under test, the routine under test generating an output upon execution, the device
3 comprising:

4 a display to display the output as a bitmap;
5 a test routine; and
6 a capture routine invocable by the test routine to extract data from a
7 predefined region of the bitmap,
8 the test routine adapted to receive the extracted data to perform a test
9 procedure.

1 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the test procedure comprises matching the
2 extracted data with a predetermined string.

1 3. The device of claim 1, further comprising a communications client
2 adapted to communicate with the system.

1 4. The device of claim 3, wherein the communications client comprises a
2 Telnet client.

1 5. The device of claim 1, wherein the bitmap comprises an array of pixels,
2 and wherein the predefined region comprises a rectangular region.

1 6. The device of claim 1, wherein the test routine is adapted to provide
2 parameters defining the predefined region when invoking the capture routine.

1 7. The device of claim 1, wherein the output comprises a table having a first
2 column of fields and a second column of fields.

1 8. The device of claim 7, wherein the predefined region is different
2 depending on whether a field from the first column or the second column is to be
3 extracted.

1 9. The device of claim 7, wherein the test routine specifies a first predefined
2 region to extract a field from the first column and a second, different predefined region to
3 extract a field from the second column.

1 10. The device of claim 1, wherein the test routine is adapted to refresh the
2 bitmap to obtain an updated output of the software application.

1 11. The device of claim 10, wherein the test routine is adapted to invoke the
2 capture routine to extract the data and to perform the test procedure after each refresh.

1 12. The device of claim 11, wherein the test routine is adapted to repeat
2 invoking the capture routine and performing the test procedure until a time-out occurs.

1 13. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions
2 that when executed cause a device to:
3 receive a bitmap representing an output of a software application under
4 test;
5 capture a value from a predefined region of the bitmap; and
6 perform a test procedure using the captured value.

1 14. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 device to perform the test procedure by matching the captured value to a predetermined
3 string.

1 15. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 device to receive the bitmap in a Telnet session.

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1 16. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 device to receive the bitmap over a communications link from a system in which the
3 software application under test is running.

1 17. The article of claim 13, wherein the bitmap represents a table generated by
2 the software application under test.

1 18. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 device to further define the predefined region by defining a rectangular region in the
3 bitmap.

1 19. The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 device to define a first region if a first output of the software application is to be extracted
3 and to define a second region if a second output of the software application is to be
4 extracted.

1 20. A method of performing a test, comprising:
2 receiving a bitmap representing an output of a software application under
3 test;
4 extracting a value from a region of the bitmap; and
5 performing a test procedure using the extracted value.

1 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying the bitmap.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein receiving the bitmap comprises a
2 terminal receiving the bitmap over a communications link from a system in which the
3 software application under test is executing.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein receiving the bitmap comprises
2 receiving the bitmap in a Telnet session between the terminal and the system.